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60130-1308
99MRA0087/0246

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michael Evans

Serial No.: 10/030,024

Filed: October 11, 2002

Title: LATCH ASSEMBLY

Examiner: Lugo, Carlos

Group Art Unit: 3677

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Sir:

Responsive to the non-final Office Action dated December 24, 2003 (Paper No. 12),
please amend the above-referenced application as follows.

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Thomas does not anticipate claims 23-26. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

§ 103 rejections

Claims 17-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernard in view of Thomas. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant has amended claims 17-21 to depend on allowable new claim 29. Applicant has also added new claims 31-35 to depend on allowable new claim 30. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: March 24, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, (703) 872-9306, on March 24, 2004.


Beth A. Beard